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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR
THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR
DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Fifth session
Paris, 6-17 June 1994
Agenda item 2

# ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBATE DESERTIFICATION IN COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

## Negotiating text of the regional implementation annex for Latin America and the Caribbean

## Note by the Secretariat

1. At its fourth session in Geneva, the INCD requested the Secretariat to draft for its fifth session in Paris the negotiating text of a regional implementation annex for Latin America and the Caribbean based on document A/AC.241/CRP.7, submitted by Panama on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group. The text is attached for the Committee's consideration.

2. In preparing the negotiating text, the Secretariat took into careful consideration the results of meetings of countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, in Brazil and Chile, and statements by INCD members on this issue during the fourth session. The Secretariat also drew on written submissions received from Governments after that session, containing additicnal comments and drafting proposals. Finally, the Secretariat benefited from discussion of the text during the 6th meeting of the International Panel of Experts on Desertification.

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Annex

REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ANNEX FOR
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Article 1

Purpose

The purpose of the present annex is to provide guidelines and arrangements necessary for the efficient and practical implementation of the Convention in Latin America and the Caribbean in light of the particular conditions of that region.

Article 2

Particular conditions of the Latin American and Caribbean region

In carrying out their obligations pursuant to the provisions of the Convention, the Parties shall take into consideration the following particular conditions of the Latin American and Caribbean region:

(a) The large areas vulnerable to, or significantly affected by, desertification and drought, and their broad diversity;

(b) The frequent use of unsustainable development practices in affected areas as a result of complex interactions among physical, biological, political, social, cultural and economic factors, including international economic factors such as external indebtedness, deteriorating terms of trade and trade practices which distort markets for agricultural, fishery and forestry products;

(c) The linkage between such practices and the unsustainable use of natural resources reflected in deforestation, overgrazing, unsustainable farming practices and mismanagement of water resources; and

(d) The serious reduction in the productivity of ecosystems in affected areas, reflected in agriculture, livestock and forest yields, the impoverishment and displacement of populations and deterioration of living standards;

(e) The adverse impact of processes of desertification on the rich biological diversity.

Article 3

Framework for national action programmes

1. National action programmes shall be an integral part of broader national policies for sustainable development of affected country Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean.

2. A consultative and participatory process involving appropriate levels of government, local communities and non-governmental organizations shall be undertaken to provide guidance on a strategy with flexible planning to allow maximum local participation. As appropriate, bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies may be involved in this process at the request of the affected country Party concerned.

Article 4

Timetable for preparation of action programmes

Affected country Parties of the region shall finalize the preparation of their national action programmes, and, as appropriate, subregional and/or regional action programmes, as soon as practicable.

Article 5

Content of national action programmes

In preparing national action programmes in accordance with Articles 9 and 10 of the Convention, affected country Parties of the region may include, consistent with their respective circumstances, measures relating to the following areas:

(a) Capacity-building, public education and awareness, technical, scientific and technological cooperation, as well as financial resources and mechanisms;

(b) Measures to improve the economic environment with a view to eradicating poverty and improving living conditions;

(c) Food security and the sustainable development of agriculture, fisheries and forestry, as well as activities cutting across these sectors;

(d) Land and water conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, especially the sustainable management of drainage basins, and of biological diversity;

(e) Sustainable management of natural resources in high altitude areas;

(f) Protection and sustainable exploitation of biological diversity, consistent with the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(g) Strengthening or establishment of systems for data collection and assessment and information sharing, encompassing meteorological, hydrological, biological, economic and social variables;

(h) Development, management and sustainable use of various sources of energy, including the promotion of alternative sources;

(i) Demographic factors relating to desertification and drought;

(j) Evolution of institutional frameworks aiming at, inter alia, decentralization of administrative structures and functions related to activities to implement the Convention and full participation of local communities in such activities; and

(k) Establishment and/or strengthening of early-warning systems, emergency plans and other activities to mitigate the effects of drought.

Article 6

Preparation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes

In accordance with Article 11 of the Convention, affected country Parties of the region may prepare and implement, as appropriate, subregional action programmes and/or a regional action programme to complement and increase the efficiency of national action programmes.

Article 7

Technical scientific and technological cooperation

In the implementation of Articles 16, 17 and 18 of the Convention and in the framework of the coordination mechanism set forth in Article 9 of this Annex, affected country Parties of the region shall, individually or jointly:

(a) Promote the establishment and/or strengthening of national, subregional and regional technological cooperation networks and information systems, as well as their integration into worldwide systems; and

(b) Prepare inventories of relevant available technology and know-how, particularly traditional and local, and encourage their dissemination and use;

(c) Identify areas for technological cooperation;

(d) Promote the development, adaptation and use of new technologies.

Article 8

Financial resources and mechanisms

In accordance with Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention and utilizing, as appropriate, the institutional framework of Article 9 of this Annex, the affected country Parties of the region shall, individually or jointly, in accordance with their national development policies:

(a) Adopt measures to rationalize and strengthen mechanisms to finance, from both public and private sources, activities to implement national action programmes and, as appropriate subregional and/or regional programmes, with a view to achieving concrete results;

(b) Assess international cooperation requirements and opportunities to provide support for such programmes; and

(c) Promote the participation of bilateral and multilateral financial cooperation institutions in the implementation of action programmes.

Article 9

Institutional framework

1. Affected country Parties of the region shall establish or strengthen, as appropriate, national institutional frameworks for combatting desertification and mitigating the effects of drought and designate national focal points to coordinate relevant activities. They shall also make appropriate arrangements to link focal points with a view to ensuring relevant coordination among them, inter alia, for the following purposes:

(a) Exchange of information and sharing of experiences;

(b) Harmonization of actions at the subregional and regional levels;

(c) Promotion of scientific, technical, technological and financial cooperation, in accordance with Articles 7 and 8;

(d) Identification of opportunities and arrangements for cooperation and partnership with country Parties of other regions;

(e) Follow-up and assessment of the implementation of action programmes.

2. In carrying out their obligations pursuant to paragraph 1, affected country Parties of the region shall hold periodic coordination meetings to which competent organizations may be invited.

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